A Full and True

NARRATIVE

OF ONE

Elizabeth Middleton,

A

Roman-Catholick,

Living in *Gardeners-Lane*, *Weſtminſter*.

Who Indeavouring to Turn the Late Helliſh-*PLOT* on the *Non-Conformiſts*; thereby to Vindicate her own Sect, the *Papiſts*: Was before ſeveral Witneſſes heard Impudently to Wiſh, *That ſhe might never ſee the* Light; *and that ſome Remarkable Judgement might light on her, if there were any ſuch thing as a* PLOT *deſigned, or carried on by the* Roman-Catholicks, *tending to the Deſtruction of the* KING, *or the Subverſion of our Religion or Government.*

Which miſerable Imprecation, by [redacted] Hand of Providence, fell on her within Two days afterwards, ſhe being not only according to her own Wiſh, totally Deprived of her Sight, but Viſited alſo with a dangerous Fitt of Sickneſs. In which ſad Condition ſhe yet remains to the terrour of all equivocating Papiſts, who dare be ſo impious as to make Imprecation contrary to their Knowledge and Conſcience.

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A Full and True Narrative of one *Elizabeth Middleton*, a *Roman-Catholique*, &c.

THe Invincible Impudence of the Roman-Catholicks, is not a little remarkable, in that they ſtill continue to endeavour to poſſeſs us, that there is no ſuch thing as a Popiſh-Plot; no, not although there is hardly any of our ſenſes but have inform'd us on the contrary; for, alas! have we not ſeen our Famous City flaming about our Ears? have we not felt their perfidious Swords plunged in our Proteſtant-Boſomes? have we not heard them fairly Try'd, and found Guilty of the ſame Fact? have not our Fore-Fathers taſted of, and we been threatned with their Poyſonous Cups? and had not the Noſtrils of the whole Land like to have been choak'd with the fatal ſteneh of their Powder-Plot? But if after all this we will not credit our ſenſes, to what Medium are then reduc'd? what aſſurance have we that we Eat, Drink, Walk, or Sleep? or who ſhall be able to make Affidavit that he lives? for certainly there cannot be a firmer demonſtration of any of theſe, Than that the Roman-Catholicks are our inveterate enemies, and would cordially rejoyce at our deſigned Ruine. Which that we may undoubtedly believe, and ſtand on our honeſt Guard, Indulgent

Heaven

Heaven has been very industrious in affording us frequent evidences of their hate and Treachery, the unparallel'd Murder of Sir Ed. B. Godfrey, *had been of it self sufficient to depaint their Guilt: But as if Providence had condescended to take a particular cognizance of our fool-hardy incredulity; since then there has scarcely ever a Day passed over our heads which has not given us farther assurances of ther Hellish Designs. And that we may be left without all hopes of excuse, the Almighty has been pleased farther to Evidence their perfidiousness, and our danger, by a Miracle wrought on one of their Religion, which for its Truth and Rarity, ought never to be forgotten, but to be preserv'd and hoarded up like the* Egyptian-Manna, *as a Relick fit to be delivered to Posterity, that our Successors, as well as our selves, may see the Justice, as well as the Power of him that did it.*

THe Person on whom it was effected, was a Woman well stricken in years, and one who had imbibed so many of the Popish-Principles, that she was become a most Stickling Zealot in the *Romish*-Religion, and so passionate that she could not with any patience endure to hear any thing, either against it, or the professors of it, without running unto many extravagant expressions against those who oppos'd her; and this her infirmity was much more visible, because she hap'ned to inhabit in a *Lane* where many Papists did likewise dwell, whose fre-

quent Converſe might in all probability increaſe her eagerneſs, and raiſe her Spirit in the defence of thoſe Principles, into which (though ſhe were ſubtly ſeduced) ſhe ſo dearly loved. The name of the place of her abode, is called *Gardeners-Lane*, neer *Weſtminſter*; the Houſes whereof are of an antient low ſort of timber-Building, and conſequently the more dangerous if any Fire ſhould either by deſign or accident happen therein. This it ſeems the Papiſts were very well acquainted withal, who according to the information of the Inhabitants thereabouts, had ſome time ſince condemned it to their mercileſs flames, and had ſo far proceeded to execution, that one of their *Fire-houſing*-Agents had got into a great Bake-Houſe at the upper end of it, with intention by ſetting the Bavens on fire, to conſume the whole Lane, but by Gods mercy he was ſtrangely prevented, by falling (in the dark) againſt a Glaſs-window, and the Panes burſting out on the other ſide, alarm'd a Maid-ſervant of the houſe, who taking him only for a Theif, indeavoured to apprehend him, by crying out, *Stop Theif*. But though at that time he eſcaped; he has ſince by the confeſſion of another whom he had imployed about a like concern, been apprehended, and has been ſo ingenious as to confeſs the Fact.

This narrow deliverance could not but poſſeſs the Cautious Inhabitants to be more careful for the time

to come; and in order thereunto, to extirpate, or Root out (as poſſible they may) as many of the aforeſaid *Papiſts* as they could: at which this Woman *Elizabeth Middleton*, ſeem'd more then ordinarily concern'd, nor would be perſwaded to deſert the City, though his Majeſties Royal Proclaimation had been exhibited to that purpoſe. But ſhe obſtinate in her own ways, ſeem'd to take no Notice thereof; but ſtay'd at her uſual habitation, openly proclaiming her opinion, and boldly commending thoſe Principles, and vindicating the practicers thereof, inſomuch that ſhe was at length taken notice of by Authority, which according to the uſual method followed in thoſe caſes, proceeded to render her a Papiſt Convict, in order to the farther Execution of the Law, long ſince provided for ſuch Recuſants.

But nothing could ſtop the fierce current of this Womans incorrigableneſs; ſhe continued as Malepert and bold as ever: and once about a fortnight ſince, it was her fortune to go into a Neighbours Victualling-Houſe, known by the Sign of the *Sun and Phenix*, in the ſame Lane, and not above four Doors off her own home: there ſhe fell afreſh to the aſperſing of Non-conformiſts, and the aſerting the Loyalty and Innocence of thoſe of the Romiſh Religion. It could not be immagined but at ſuch a juncture as this is, ſhe ſhould meet with ſome that

oppoſed

oppoſed her, whom ſhe patiently reſiſting, was by the Nervous ſtrength of their reaſon, brought to the contrary of what ſhe ſaid, ſcrew'd up to ſuch an exceſs of extravagent paſſion, that at laſt in a very concern'd poſture, ſhe openly wiſht, *That ſhe might never ſee the Light, and that ſome Remarkable Judgement might fall on her (for an Example) if there were any ſuch thing as a Plot Deſigned, or carried on by the* Roman-Catholicks, *tending to the Deſtruction of the King, or the Subverſion of our Religion or Government.* There is no queſtion but when ſhe ſpoke this hidious Imprecation, ſhe imagined ſhe might digeſt it with as much eaſe, and leſs harm, then others of her perſwaſion ſwallow Oaths, Teſts and Sacraments, in atteſtation of their Loyalty, when they intend nothing but Blood-ſhed and Sedition; But *God will not* always *be Mocked*, and though his Vengeance comes but ſeldom, yet it comes ſure, and he will be Glorified either in afflicting us and making us thereby immediate and open Examples of his diſpleaſure: or elſe in preſerving us and rendering us the happy Subjects of his care and Providence. This truth is Remarkable by thoſe diſpenſations which the Almighty thought in his infinite wiſdom, fit to lay on this raſh woman, who muſt neceſſarily know that either her aſſeverations were not true, and ſo it was but juſt that her own Imprecations ſhould fall on her, or elſe that ſhe was ignorant in the thing

ſhe ſo confidently affirm'd, and ſo ought not to have challenged God at ſo high a rate, to inflict his Judgements upon her if it were not true.

Had ſhe but thought of this, ſhe might in all humane probability have eſcaped thoſe dreadful judgements which ſeiz'd her but Two days afterwards, for then according to her wiſh, ſhe was ſtrucken ſtark Blind, inſomuch that when many of her neighbours went to viſit her, ſhe knew them by their Voices, but could not in the leaſt diſtinguiſh who they were by her eyes or ſight, being by her own acknowledgment ſtark blind; and being told of her raſhneſs in making the aforeſaid aſſeveration, ſhe was heard to anſwer to no other purpoſe than this; Viz. *That God was a juſt God, and would not be mocked.* But Heaven thought not Blindneſs alone a ſufficient penalty for ſo great an Impiety, and therefore added to it a dangerous fit of Sickneſs, with both of which, ſhe remains miſerably afflicted to this day.

And now behold honeſt Reader, the ſad effects of Popiſh preſumption, and the miſerable condition of Popiſh Proſelytes, who if they can by any clandeſtine or daring Impiety, out-brave Mankind, think that God takes no notice of them; but let ſuch take warning by this unhappy Example, and know that if for ſuch Sins they eſcape here, yet he will certainly light on them, and puniſh them hereafter.

FINIS.

POSCRIPT.

If any one questions the Truth of this Narrative, let them Repair to the Prementioned Sign of the Sun *and* Phenix *in* Gardeners-Lane, *near* Westminster, *and the Man of the House who is a sufficiant Honest sober* Protestant, *will give them Satisfaction.*

FINIS.